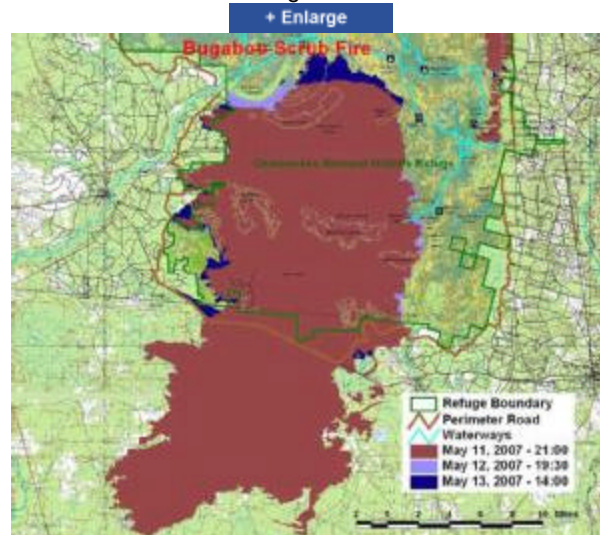


Appendix 1 Fire Information

Figure 1



Large Map of 233,718-acre Bugaboo Scrub Fire on May
13

Figure A1.1 – Bugaboo Scrub Fire

Bugaboo Scrub Fire Dubbed Largest In Florida History

Firefighter: We're Here For Long Haul

UPDATED: 10:42 am EDT May 17, 2007

LAKE CITY, Fla. -- After getting a firsthand look at the fire damage from the Bugaboo Scrub Fire, Florida's Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottkamp spoke with the residents of Columbia County, calling the 180-square-mile blaze that burned out of the Okefenokee Swamp last week the largest in Florida history.

"One of the purposes for me to be here along with other representatives is to make sure that we have provided every single resource we can," Kottkamp said at Wednesday's briefing.

As of Wednesday morning, 419 state and federal forestry personnel plus more than 200 local firefighters on structure-protection teams were working to contain the blaze. Six aircraft, 23 bulldozers and 37 fire engines were committed to fighting the blaze that has consumed 370 square miles of dry woodlands in three counties.

Firefighters were able to take advantage of light winds to fortify containment lines to protect 725 evacuated homes, making progress and holding a raging wildfire in check in north Florida.

Although most of the fire is a few miles north of Interstate 10, flames are creeping toward U.S. Route 441, where most of the evacuations were.

Officials said keeping the fire east of the highway is crucial because if the fire spreads another one or two miles to the west, at least 1,500 more homes would have to be evacuated, including those northwest Columbia County and Hamilton County.

While the smoke had lifted enough to open interstates 10 and 75 to traffic, drivers were warned periodic closures were possible. U.S. 441 remained closed from I-10 north to Homerville, Ga.

Firefighters have been able keep the blaze away from widely scattered rural homes -- the nearest it has gotten to the highway is about a mile.

The Red Cross shelter at Columbia County High School remained open Wednesday.

Ashsah Dees, 34, and her 9-year-old daughter, Meagan, were among those evacuated.

"I live in the middle of the Osceola National Forest. It could come at my house from any direction," she said. "You bet I'm worried."

Dees said she was able to go home for a few minutes and saw a tanker truck sitting in her front yard, which made her feel better.

Florida Division of Forestry spokesman Jim Harrell said calm winds allowed firefighters to work Wednesday on strengthening their containment lines to prevent the fire from spreading to nearby homes.

More good news announced at Wednesday afternoon's information briefing was that the 119,500-acre wildfire was 65 percent contained.

However, Harrell said the weather would likely worsen next weekend, with strong winds and high temperatures that could allow the blaze to spread.

The fire commander said it would take a significant amount of rainfall before the fire would be completely out.

On Tuesday, 50-foot flames exploded through a stand of trees as a helicopter made three water drops to help cool the raging inferno.

Firefighters, however, said they are making good progress on containing the massive fire that spread into Florida and raged through the Osceola National Forest, heading west, north of Lake City.

"We're just throwing everything that we have at it," said Forestry's Russell Hubright said. "We've got air tankers flying, we've got helicopters flying, we've got dozers plowing, we've got hand crews working. We're doing everything we can, all the strategies we can to tame this beast."

The flames jumped containment lines three times on Monday as brisk winds, low humidity and high temperatures made work difficult for an army of local, state and federal firefighters. But on each occasion, firefighters were able to quickly extinguish the blazes.

There were no reports Wednesday of fires jumping fire lines and the fire.

"The advance of the fire is slowing. We've been very, very successful at holding these lines," incident Cmdr. Joe Ferguso said. "But we're not going to let our guard down."

Firefighters call it the Bugaboo Scrub Fire for the island in the Okefenokee Swamp where it started with a lightning strike 10 days ago.

One fire crew drove 2,200 to Florida from California to help fight the blaze.

"Firefighting is my No. 1 passion in life. It's what I want to do. There's no better way to spend my 21st birthday than being out here on the fire," said California firefighter Cory Wilford.

Sixteen-hour shifts have firefighters fighting fatigued but still valiantly battling the blaze.

"One of the guys on the line asked me this morning, 'How much more can a person take?' You just kind of wonder, but the guys just keep on going -- they have to do it. The men and women fighting this fire just have a dedication to it, and they're going to stay here until it's out," said Hubright.

"We're in here for the long haul. I have 12 more days before I get to go home," said Baker City, Ore., firefighter Jeff Trevor.

Columbia County schools were open on Wednesday.

Lake City has declared a water shortage, asking homes and businesses not to irrigate and to suspend nonessential uses of water to ensure there's enough water for firefighting efforts.

After One Month, Fires Still Threaten South Georgia

Four weeks ago, a power line falling in dry brush south of Waycross started a fire that forced hundreds from their homes, destroyed more than a dozen homes, kept Ware County schools closed for more than a week and continues to burn out of control -- mostly in the National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding stands of timber.

This blaze, called Sweat Farm-Big Turnaround Fire, has burned 138,500 acres in Ware and Northern Charlton counties since April 16. While it was called the largest fire in since record keeping began in 1957, the Bugaboo Scrub Fire is the bigger focus of firefighting. In eight days, it has spread over 250,852 acres on both sides of the state line. The only mandatory evacuation remaining in south Georgia was changed to precautionary Monday night, meaning people in Reeves Landing and Moniac could return home but need to be prepared to leave again with 12- to 24-hour notice if conditions change.

"Everybody's being told not to let their guard down, don't unpack," said Laura Polant, a fire information officer in Fargo. "Residents are still being told to be prepared to leave, because the call can come at any time."

Deep in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge a crew of fire fighters set brush ablaze Tuesday to help stem the growth of the largest wildfire in the Georgia's history.

The controlled burn -- called a "burnout" -- was along a road in the refuge about two miles from the main blaze.

"This is one of the biggest tools that we have to put the biggest fires out," said Craig Daugherty, a firefighter from New Mexico. "It robs the main fire of fuel."

Firefighters walk along the brush holding torches that drip fire. The brush is so dry that flames quickly shoot 20 to 30 feet in the air, sending hot embers and thick black smoke into the sky.

In Georgia, portions of state roads 94 and 177 remain closed, although state Road 177 south of U.S. Highway 1 has reopened. U.S. 441 is closed at the Florida border.

The Wildlife Refuge and Georgia's Steven C. Foster State Park inside it remained closed, but Okefenokee Swamp Park has reopened.

The airport in Folkston, Davis Field, remains closed.

Haze from the fires has traveled as far south as the Miami area, about 340 miles away.

Other Florida Fires

The Florida Department of Forestry reported 237 active fires burning 164,226 acres on Monday morning.

While the Bugaboo Scrub fire was by far the largest in the state, smaller fires that threatened northeast Florida were largely contained.

The 15,000-acre fire that kept people out of their homes and roads closed in **Bradford County** much of last week was 80 percent contained, Florida officials said on Monday morning.

The last evacuation orders in Bradford County were lifted over the weekend.

One home and two outbuildings were destroyed as the fire was burning out of control on Tuesday.

Starke, Fla., got only .10-inch of rain on Sunday, while parts of Gainesville received up to 4 inches.

Two fires that burned over 9,000 acres in **Flagler County** last week were 65 and 70 percent contained, with officials saying Monday that firefighters were overseeing containment and mopping up hot spots at fires near Deland and near the Flagler-Volusia border. (FlaglerEmergency.com)

Giant Wildfires Merge Into One

Provided By: [The Associated Press](#)
Last Modified: 5/23/2007 4:22:42 PM

UNDATED (AP) -- Shifting winds have moved the smoky haze caused by the wildfires burning in southeast Georgia away from the metro Atlanta area.

Officials said two large forest fires that started in southeast Georgia have merged in the Okefenokee Swamp -- creating one tremendous wildfire.

Fire has blackened more than 473,000 acres of forest and swampland in drought-stricken Georgia and north Florida. Commercial timber losses are estimated at well over \$30 million.

One fire -- known as the Sweat Farm Road Fire -- started April 16 when a tree fell onto a power line near Waycross. The second blaze -- called the Bugaboo Fire -- started by lightning in the Okefenokee on May 5 and rapidly spread into Florida.

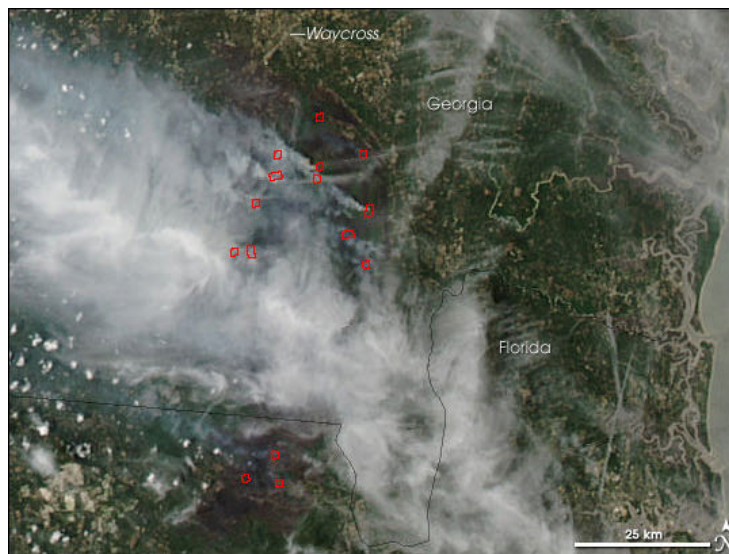
Tuesday, a task force monitoring the blazes for the two states said the fires in Georgia have burned more than 350,000 acres, and nearly 123,000 acres in Florida.

For the second time in a week, southeast winds brought smoke from the fires near the Georgia-Florida line into north Georgia Tuesday.

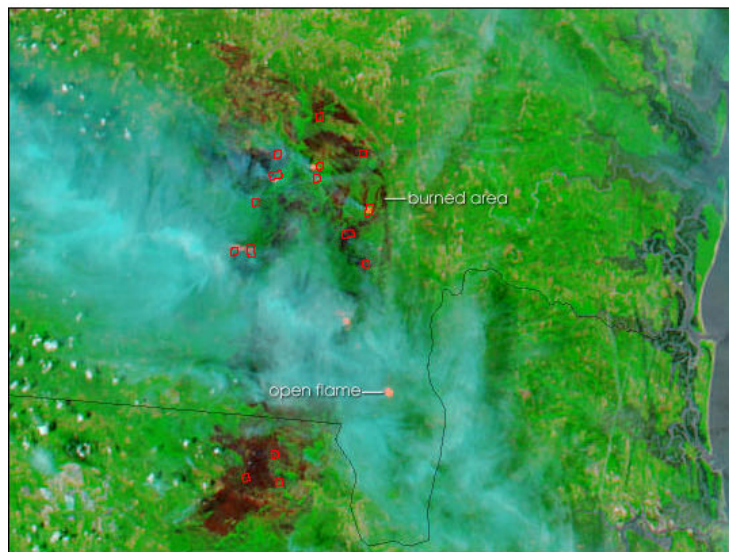
Forecasters said wind swinging to the east later in the day should bring fresher air from the Atlantic and the Carolinas, and that a front moving through the area today also should bring some relief.

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[Natural Hazards](#) >> [Fires](#) >> Fires in Georgia and Florida



natural color (visible light)



false color (visible, shortwave, and near-infrared light)

[Click here to view high-resolution version \(1.2MB\)](#)
Image Acquired: May 30, 2007

Fires in Georgia and Florida

Scattered clouds over Florida and Georgia during the last week of May 2007 made it difficult for NASA satellites to

capture images of the sprawling Bugaboo and Big Turnaround Complex Fires. The Bugaboo Fire had been burning on either side of the state line in the Okefenokee Swamp since the first week of May. The Big Turnaround Complex southeast of Waycross, Georgia, had been burning since mid-April.

This pair of partly cloudy images was captured by the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer ([MODIS](#)) on NASA's [Aqua](#) satellite on May 30, 2007. The top image is a photo-like version of the area, while the bottom image is an infrared-enhanced version that highlights the burned areas. Places where MODIS detected actively burning fire are outlined in red. In this type of false-color image, bright pink (glowing) areas often indicate open flame. (The absence of a "hotspot" outline around some of these glowing areas is probably because clouds or smoke interfered with the automatic fire-detection process.) The exact boundary between the fires is not clear; in essence there is a mammoth fire burning in a broken line more than 50 miles long. A swath of clouds, partially mingled with smoke, cuts through the scene.

Southern Georgia and Florida are experiencing extreme drought. In the normally swampy terrain that is common in this part of the country, dead vegetation accumulates without completely decaying because it is frequently submerged in water. When these layers of dead vegetation, or peat, dry out, they are extremely flammable. Fire officials have said that these fires could burn for months; heavy rains over an extended period of time will likely be needed to totally extinguish them.

The large image provided above is the infrared-enhanced version at a spatial resolution (level of detail) of 250 meters per pixel. The MODIS Rapid Response Team provide twice-daily images of this area in both natural and false color in additional resolutions via a [clickable map](#).



Where in the World

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May 31, 2007

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NASA image courtesy the [MODIS Rapid Response Team](#),
Goddard Space Flight Center .

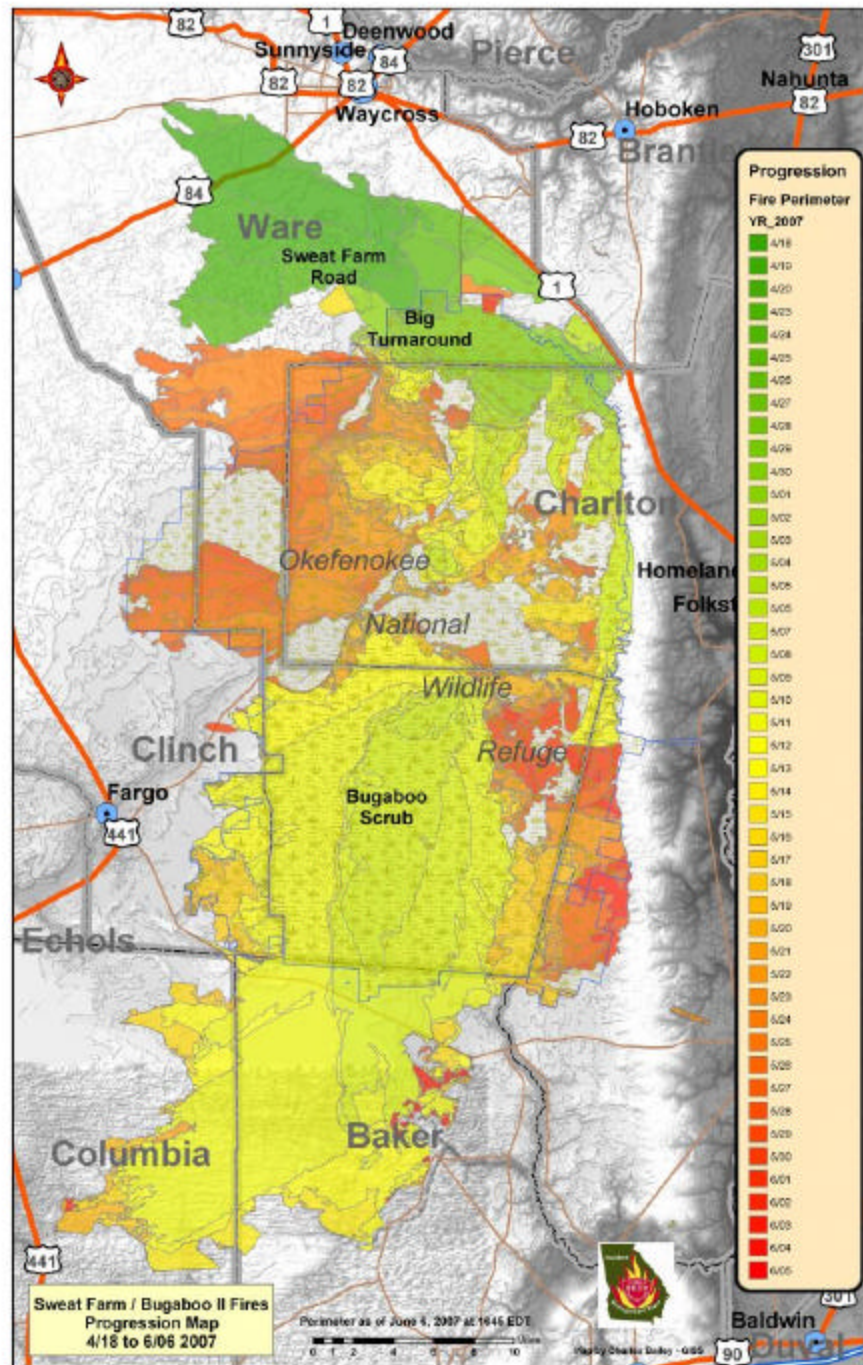


Figure A1.2: Fire progression map of combined swamp fires in Georgia and Florida from April to June 2007.